

50. (New) A recording medium which is readable by a computer and has stored a program for allowing a computer to function as a contract device for:

detecting an application for closing a contract for supply of a commodity when accepting presentation of an electronic note or electronic representation of money and said application from an outside device connected via a network and receiving said electronic note of an amount equivalent to the price of said commodity out of said presented electronic note; and

when supplied with said electronic note together with separation information representing a plurality of amounts whose total is substantially equal to the amount of said electronic note, invalidating said electronic note supplied together with said separation information and generating and supplying a plurality of electronic notes having amounts represented by said separation information to said outside device.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 21, 23, and 25-27 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, and 22 have been amended. New claims 28-50 have been added. Accordingly claims 1, 3-20, 22, 24, and 28-50 remain under prosecution in this application.

General Remarks

This paper (Paper No. 13) is identical to the prior Response filed November 22, 2000 except it addresses the issues raised by the Examiner in Paper No. 12. Specifically, amendments to claims 1 and 4 have been properly indicated and the remaining claims to which amendments were made, were checked to make sure that all deviations between the claims as filed and claims as amended were correctly shown using conventional square brackets for indicating proposed deletions and underlining for proposed insertions.

The undersigned respectfully requests that the Response filed on November 22, 2000 be supplemental by this Response (Paper No. 13).

Priority

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of the foreign application which this U.S. application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(b). Please enter this certified copy into the official record of this application.

§102 and §103

Amended claim 1 incorporates the features of originally filed claims 1 and 2. Since claim was indicated as allowable, amended claim 1, and its dependent claims (claims 3, 5-20), are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to place it into independent format and to incorporate the limitations of originally filed claim 1. Claim 4 was indicated as being in condition for allowance, and accordingly the undersigned believes that, in view of these amendments, claim 4 is now allowable

Claim 22 incorporates the limitations of originally filed claims 22 and 23. None of the references of record teach or suggest an electronic monetary system having an “information generation section storing an amount obtained by subtracting said amount equivalent to said corresponding value from said credit limit indicated by said identification code as a new credit limit, when determining to generate said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value” (see the last paragraph of newly amended claim 22).

Claim 24 was not explicitly rejected or allowed in the previous Office Action and accordingly its status is undefined. The undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify his position on the allowability of claim 24.

New claim 28 primarily focuses on the electronic note generation means of claim 1. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 28 and accordingly the undersigned believes that new claim 28 and its dependent claims (claims 29-33) are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 34 primarily corresponds to amended claim 4. None of the references of

record teach or suggest the invention as set forth in claim 34 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 34 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 35 primarily corresponds to amended claim 22. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 35 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 35 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 36 primarily corresponds to the contract means set forth in claim 1. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 36 and accordingly the undersigned believes that new claim 36 and its dependent claims (claims 37-42) are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 43 primarily corresponds to amended claim 4. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 43 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 43 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 44 essentially retracts claim 1 except that it sets forth some of its apparatus clauses in method language format.

Because claim 1 has been indicated as allowable, the undersigned believes that, by analogy, claim 44 is also allowable.

Claim 45 essentially tracks amended claim 4 except for the omission of contract means. Additionally, claim 45 sets forth some of the limitations of claim 4 in method language. Because claim 4 has been indicated as allowable, the undersigned believes that, by analogy, claim 45 is also allowable.

The recording medium of claim 46 generally corresponds to new claim 28.

The recording medium of claim 47 generally corresponds to new claim 34.

The recording medium of claim 48 generally corresponds to new claim 35.

The recording medium of claim 49 generally corresponds to new claim 36.

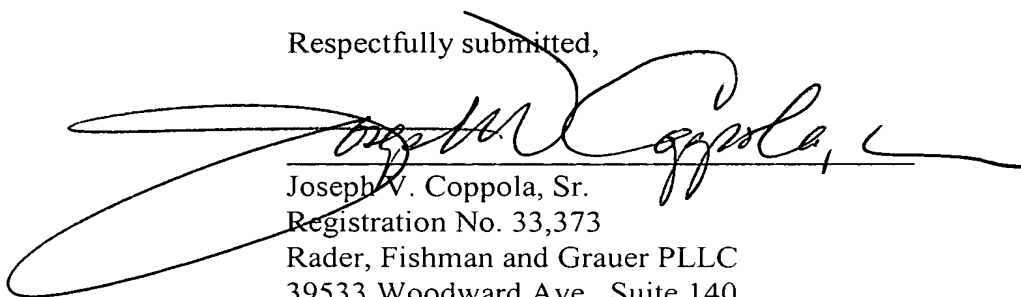
The recording medium of claim 50 generally corresponds to new claim 43.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, the undersigned believes that claims 1, 3-20, 22, 24, and 28-50 are now in condition for allowance.

Extension of Time

A two-month extension of time is due with the filing of this paper. The fee of \$390.00 for obtaining a two-month extension may be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 18-0013. No other fees are believed to be due with the filing of this paper; however, if any other fees are due with the filing of this paper, they may also be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 18-0013.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joseph W. Coppola, Sr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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MARKED UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (First Amended) An electronic monetary [commerce]system including a network, electronic note generation means connected to said network, contract means connected to said network, and one or more electronic note using means,

at least one of said electronic note using means including electronic note request means for receiving authorization information representing a generation request for an electronic note or an electronic representation of money and presenting said authorization information to said electronic note generation means via said network to request generation of an electronic note of a predetermined amount,

said electronic note generation means including means for accepting presentation of said authorization information and a request for generation of said electronic note from said electronic note using means, determining if said authorization information represents a generation request for said electronic note of an about equal to or greater than said predetermined amount, and, when determining that such representation is true, generating and supplying said electronic note of said predetermined amount to said electronic note using means,

at least one of said electronic note using means including contract applying means for receiving and saving said electronic note of said predetermined amount, presenting said electronic note to said contract means to apply for closing of a contract for supply of a commodity,

said contract means including:

contract accepting means for detecting [presenting] presentation of said electronic note and an application for closing of said contract from said electronic note using means and receiving an electronic note which belongs to said presented electronic note and has an amount equivalent to a price of said commodity;

means for calculating an excess amount which is a total amount of said electronic note received from said electronic note using means that exceeds said price of said commodity, and

means for supplying information indicative of said excess amount and said electronic note of an amount exceeding said excess amount to said electronic note generation means

said electronic note generation means including means for invalidating said electronic note of an amount exceeding said excess amount, generating a first electronic note of an amount substantially equal to said excess amount and a second electronic note of an amount substantially equal to a difference between said amount of said invalidated electronic note and said excess amount, and supplying said first electronic note and said second electronic note to said contract means, and

said contract means further including means for receiving said first and second electronic notes and supplying said second electronic note to said electronic note using means.

4. (First Amended) [The]An electronic monetary [commerce]system [according to claim 1], including a network, electronic note generation means connected to said network, contract means connected to said network, and one or more electronic note using means,

at least one of said electronic note using means including electronic note request means for receiving authorization information representing a generation request for an electronic note or an electronic representation of money and presenting said authorization information to said electronic note generation means via said network to request generation of an electronic note of a predetermined amount,

said electronic note generation means including means for accepting presentation of said authorization information and a request for generation of said electronic note from said electronic note using means, determining if said authorization information represents a generation request for said electronic note of an about equal to or greater than said predetermined amount, and, when determining that such representation is true, generating and supplying said electronic note of said predetermined amount to said electronic note using means,

at least one of said electronic note using means including contract applying means for receiving and saving said electronic note of said predetermined amount, presenting

said electronic note to said contract means to apply for closing of a contract for supply of a commodity,

said contract means including contract accepting means for detecting presenting of said electronic note and an application for closing of said contract from said electronic note using means and receiving an electronic note which belongs to said presented electronic note and has an amount equivalent to a price of said commodity,

[wherein]said electronic note using means having [has] means for supplying said electronic note together with separation information representing a plurality of amounts whose total is substantially equal to the amount of said electronic note, to said electronic note generation means[; and],

at least one of said electronic note generation means and said contract means having [has]means for invalidating said electronic note supplied together with said separation information, and generating and supplying a plurality of electronic notes having amounts indicated by said separation information to said electronic note using means.

22. (First Amended) An electronic monetary[commerce] system comprising an information generation section, a commodity providing section, an information storage section and a network connected to one another,

said information storage section sending an identification code requesting generation of an electronic note comprised of information representing an amount equal to or smaller than a predetermined credit limit, and an application for supply of a commodity to said commodity providing section,

said commodity providing section receiving said application and said identification code and sending said received identification code to said information generation section to request said information generation section to generate said information representing an amount equivalent to a corresponding value of said commodity,

said information generation section determining whether or not to generate said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value based on said received identification code, and generating and supplying said information representing

said amount equivalent to said corresponding value to said commodity providing section when determining to generate said electronic note,

said commodity providing section receiving said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value, determining whether or not to accept said application based on said received application and said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value, and, when determining to accept said application, sending an acknowledgement of acceptance to said information storage section,

said information generation section storing an amount obtained by subtracting said amount equivalent to said corresponding value from said credit limit indicated by said identification code as a new credit limit, when determining to generate said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value.